

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph [004] with the following rewritten paragraph:

Fig. 1 illustrates a communications network 100 that employs a plurality group of similar (possibly mobile) stations, some of which operate as cluster heads 110. The cluster heads 110 may be interconnected by one or more backbone links 115. Each cluster head 110 defines a cluster, and the cluster may include zero or more cluster members 120. The cluster members 120 communicate directly with the cluster heads 110 through communication links. The dashed line 130 illustrates one such cluster, containing cluster head 110 and two cluster members 120.

Please replace paragraph [0052] with the following rewritten paragraph:

As indicated previously, one function performed by each cluster head is to periodically broadcast beacon messages from each of its functioning cluster radios, the beacon messages establishing the cluster head's presence and its availability to operate as a head for other cluster terminals. The beacon messages may be identical across different cluster radios, or may differ based on, for example, recently observed statistics for the different cluster radios. Further, each backbone radio in a cluster head terminal may periodically transmit messages, at least to the other cluster head terminals, which identify at least the members that are affiliated with that cluster head [act 530]. Thus, the cluster head terminals may maintain a data structure indicating the present constituency of the network and the configuration of the network backbone.